

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, please amend the Title of the Invention as follows:

-- **PROCESSES PROCESS FOR PREPARING IMPREGNATING, REFINING, AND
BLEACHING WOOD CHIPS HAVING LOW BLEACHABILITY TO PREPARE
MECHANICAL PULPS HAVING HIGH BRIGHTNESS**--

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, lines 3-7, as follows:

Example 4

The same treatment and measurement as described in Example 1 were performed except that ~~0.05% sodium~~ 0.05% sodium hydroxide was added. The results are shown in Table 1 and Figs. 1 and 2.

Please amend the paragraph on page 19, lines 1-8, as follows:

The wood type of Comparative example 1 is hemlock/pine = 80/20 with normal bleachability. The wood type of Comparative example 2 is 100% Douglas fir, which is known to be hard to bleach. This is shown by the brightness of 41.2% after bleaching in Comparative example 2, which is 2.0% lower than the brightness of 43.2% in Comparative example 1. This shows that Douglas fir is has low bleachability under the same treatment conditions.

Please amend the paragraph on page 20, lines 7-25, as follows:

The mechanism by which the brightness after bleaching is improved by impregnation with sodium hydroxide or impregnation with a chelating agent according to the first aspect of the present invention[[],] is unclear, but extractives such as flavonoids are known to be detrimental to bleaching of woods having low bleachability such as Douglas fir and representative known compounds thereof include dihydroquercetin and quercetin. This indicates that the bleachability with hydrogen peroxide was improved as a result of extraction of these substances by impregnation with sodium hydroxide. Flavonoids are known to form

complexes with metal ions to cause coloration. Thus, it is concluded that the impregnation of chips with a chelating agent DTPA had the effect of extracting flavonoids by the alkalinity of DTPA, forming complexes of DTPA with metal ions contained in the chips and inhibiting the complexation of flavonoids with metal ions to suppress the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide and to improve the bleaching efficiency.